

**Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Justice
Partnership Plan
January 1st, 2015 – December 31st, 2018**



Revised December 2014

NORTHEAST NEBRASKA JUVENILE JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP
THREE YEAR COMPREHENSIVE JUVENILE SERVICES PLAN
2015—2017

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Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Justice Partnership Plan

2015 – 2018

Introduction

The Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Justice Partnership is comprised of eight counties in Northeast Nebraska. The counties that collectively make up the Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Justice Partnership are Madison, Stanton, Antelope, Pierce, Cuming, Burt, Boone and Knox. The counties included in this Partnership work together for the good of all youth within the covered area providing guidance and support where needed.

Vision

The vision guiding this comprehensive plan is to reduce juvenile delinquency and to increase overall public safety in Madison, Stanton, Antelope, Pierce, Cuming, Burt, Boone, and Knox Counties through the collaborative efforts of Juvenile Court, law enforcement agencies, schools, and juvenile support service groups within and around the Northeast Nebraska Communities.

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Justice Partnership Plan is to support the mission of the Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Services Programs:

The mission statement of the Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Justice Partnership Plan is:

To assist and encourage children and adolescents in the Northeast Nebraska Communities to become successful, contributing adults. The Madison, Stanton, Antelope, Pierce, Cuming, Burt, Boone and Knox Counties' Juvenile Services Programs hold youth accountable by building, sustaining, and strengthening their sense of personal responsibility so that they can go on to be productive members of their communities. The counties who are part of the Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Justice Partnership Team function as part of a larger team supporting other agencies and school districts involved in juvenile services throughout the Northeast Nebraska area.

Section III

Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool

SYSTEM POINT: ARREST/ CITATION PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Police/Law Enforcement STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS §§ 43-247 (1), (2), (4)	
<i>Decision: Whether an information report should be filed, or what offense, if any, with which juvenile should be cited or arrested.</i>	
Formal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sufficient factual basis to believe offense was committed. b. Underlying support for a particular offense. 	Informal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Law Violation Committed b. Cooperation by Juvenile or witnesses c. Victim's Interests d. Curfew warnings vs. citations
Notes: Responses from law enforcement agencies in Madison, Stanton, Antelope, Pierce, Cuming, Burt, Boone and Knox Counties indicate that a juvenile who has committed a law violation will receive a citation. A copy of the citation and the law enforcement officer's report will be forwarded to the designated County Attorney's Office. The citation will most likely not include a date to appear or will otherwise be noted as "to be set." This allows the county attorney's office to decide if the case should be forwarded to diversion or if the juvenile should receive an appearance date for either juvenile court or traditional county court. Law violations are treated seriously by law enforcement officers and reports are written. Alcohol offenses are treated seriously if there is probable cause to believe that a minor is in possession or consumption of alcoholic liquor. Status in the community is not considered. Law enforcement will take into consideration the views of the victim but it is not the main determining factor as a law violation may still be reported to the county attorney's office even if the victim is reluctant to pursue prosecution. There are times when the cooperation of the juvenile is a factor on whether or not the juvenile receives a citation or what type of citation is issued however it will not necessarily excuse a law violation if there is evidence to support it. Curfew cases may be impacted by the circumstances. A juvenile may get warned before receiving a citation.	
<i>Decision: Whether to cite or arrest juvenile for juvenile or adult offense.</i>	
Formal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Seriousness of Offense b. Is there a warrant? 	Informal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Seriousness of Offense b. Is there a warrant?
Notes: Law enforcement generally defer to the county attorney's office as to whether a juvenile is ultimately charged in juvenile court or in "adult" court. If a citation is issued, the citation does not usually give a time and date to appear. The County Attorney's Office will review each report and make the final decision. As part of the investigation, an officer may discuss the options with the juvenile but this is not binding in the county attorney's office. There are times that a warrant is sought by law	

enforcement and, in those instances, the juvenile is likely the subject of a serious offense and that will often be filed in traditional “adult” court (i.e. robbery, first degree assault, etc.).

Decision: Whether to take juvenile into custody or to cite and release (NRS § 43-248 and § 43-250)

Formal Determining Factors under NRS § 43-248 & 250:

- a. Violated law in presence of officer
- b. Committed a felony
- c. Protection of the juvenile
- d. Mental illness or dangerousness
- e. Runaway
- f. Locate parents
- g. Whether juvenile signs citation
- h. Whether probation officer is needed
- i. Whether DHHS is needed

Informal Determining Factors

- a. Preference for cite and release
- b. Committed a serious felony
- c. Juvenile’s behaviors
- d. Whether juvenile signs citation
- e. Whether juvenile is on restricted status
- f. Family circumstances
- g. Mental illness or dangerousness
- h. Whether probation officer is needed
- i. Whether DHHS is needed

Notes:

Law enforcement in the Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Justice Partnership Area follow Nebraska law when it comes to determining whether to cite and release. The preferred method is to cite and release to the parents after a juvenile has been temporarily detained for purposes of a law violation or status offense (i.e. runaway). Cite and release is the least restrictive method of initially dealing with juveniles. However, possible further detention can occur depending on the circumstances. If runaway or uncontrolled behaviors are reported to the responding officer, the officer will investigate whether the juvenile can be safely returned home. The officer will visit with the juvenile and the parent. If the officer is of the opinion that placing the juvenile back home would be harmful to the juvenile or others in the home, or if there is a concern that the juvenile will flee the area, then the officer will contact the probation office. The probation officer will meet with the officer and juvenile, and the juvenile’s parent. The probation officer will screen the juvenile using an approved detention screening instrument, created for the State of Nebraska Probation, which scores if the youth should be released, placed out of the home, placed in staff secure or secure detention. Another significant factor is whether or not the juvenile is cooperative. If the juvenile refuses to sign a citation promising to appear in court, the officer will provide that information to the probation officer. In addition, the legal status of the juvenile is important. If the juvenile is already on a restricted status (probation, pre-disposition court orders/Conditions of Release, DHHS, or OJS), the juvenile may be detained if it appears that further detention or placement of such juvenile is a matter of immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of such juvenile, or the person or property of another, or if it appears the juvenile is likely to flee the jurisdiction of the court. Screening completed by the intake Probation Officer includes consideration of whether the juvenile was on electronic monitor at the time of offense; had run away from an authorized placement by DHHS or OJS; or was previously released from the detention center with Conditions of Release issued by the juvenile court. Any of the foregoing situations increases the likelihood a youth will be detained. There have been other situations where family circumstances warranted removal from the family home; inability to locate parents or parental refusal to accept responsibility for their child; safety issues in the home for both juveniles and parent; or runaway behavior having been identified. If the child is a runaway from another state the child will be detained in a staff secure setting and Federal Interstate Compact Rules for Juveniles will apply. The offense itself may warrant detention. For instance, serious felonies will more than likely end up with the juvenile being detained. Lastly, if the juvenile is suffering from an apparent mental illness and is in an acute situation of dangerousness, an officer can take such juvenile first to a local hospital. After medical clearance, the officer will transport to a hospital in Nebraska that accepts adolescent psychiatric patients. Currently only Bryan LGH Hospital in Lincoln and Richard Young Hospital in

Kearney accept such youth.

SYSTEM POINT: CHARGE JUVENILE

PARTY RESPONSIBLE: County Attorney

STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-274(1), § 43-275, § 43-276

Decision: Whether to prosecute juvenile.

Formal Determining Factors under NRS § 43-276:

- a. Type of treatment to which juvenile would be most amenable
- b. Evidence that offense was violent, aggressive, or premeditated
- c. Motivation for commission of offense
- d. Age of juvenile and co-offenders
- e. Previous offense history, especially patterns of prior violence or antisocial behavior
- f. Juvenile's sophistication and maturity
- g. Juvenile's prior contacts with law enforcement and the courts
- h. Whether there are facilities particularly available to the juvenile court for the treatment and rehabilitation of the juvenile
- i. Whether best interests of juvenile and public safety dictate supervision extending beyond his or her minority
- j. Victim's inclination to participate in mediation
- k. "Such other matters as the county attorney deems relevant to his or her decision"

Informal Determining Factors

- a. Prior History
- b. Probable Cause
- c. Seriousness of the Offense
- d. At-Risk Youth
- e. Age of the Juvenile
- f. Distance of the Juvenile's Residence

Notes:

The County Attorney's Offices in the Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Justice Partnership Area practice a policy of consistency when making prosecutorial decisions. Reports and citations are sent to the County Attorney's Office by area law enforcement agencies. The juveniles named in the reports are assessed by the Chief Juvenile Accountability/Services Officer or County Attorney's staff to determine what type of action needs to be taken. The Chief Juvenile Accountability/Services Officer or County Attorney's Office researches the past history of each juvenile by checking the county attorney's card file, NCJIS probation records and diversion records to see if there have been prior incidents or cases in that specific county or other counties. Prior history is the first factor in determining whether to prosecute the juvenile. While a juvenile who has received their first citation for a law violation is routinely referred to the Madison County Diversion Program or the Juvenile Services Program in the other Northeast Nebraska counties, there also can be exceptions to that referral. If the citation is for a minor offense such as, curfew, littering, or smoking tobacco, those offenses could be charged in juvenile court so that the juvenile will still be eligible in the future for diversion or a juvenile services program if needed. In addition, traffic offenses will not be referred to those programs. Felonies such as Burglary, Auto Theft, or a Sexual Assault are not eligible for diversion. However, there have been times when the charges or the damage amount has been reduced to a misdemeanor range in order to qualify for diversion in such cases as theft or criminal mischief. Of course, probable cause that the offense occurred is still the most important consideration. If there is no probable cause that the juvenile committed the offense, then our office does not file the matter. There have been occasions when an officer has sent in a report where they believe a crime has been committed but, upon further review, the evidence will not support a conviction. The seriousness of the offense makes it more likely to be prosecuted with felony offenses being the most serious. Offenses against property and person are highly likely to be prosecuted such as Theft, Criminal Mischief and Assault. However, any violation

of the law is still worthy of prosecution if it is supported by probable cause. There are limited circumstances where our office may decline prosecution if the offense was not only minor but the victim has asked our office to decline prosecution after satisfactory restitution has occurred. Another important consideration is whether the juvenile is already involved in a pending juvenile court matter or is an at-risk youth who needs the structure that can be provided by a juvenile court petition. Juveniles who are already on probation have a standard condition that they are not to violate any laws. In other words, those juveniles are on notice through their probation orders that they are required to obey all laws. So future law violations are highly likely to be prosecuted when a juvenile is already on probation. At-risk youth are juveniles who have committed a law violation but also have severe behaviors that could result in their removal from home. In those cases, the law violation is highly likely to be prosecuted if the goal is to get the at-risk juvenile some needed structure and supervision. The age of the juvenile is another important factor as children of a tender age may not understand juvenile court or its goals if they are prosecuted. There have been occasions where law enforcement will issue a citation to a juvenile as young as eight years old. In those circumstances, it may be of limited value to prosecute a juvenile who would not appreciate the significance of probation. However, County Attorneys have petitioned juveniles of tender age if that juvenile is in need of structure that cannot be provided but for a juvenile court petition. On the upper age factor, juveniles who are sixteen or seventeen years old can be prosecuted either as an adult or as a juvenile. That factor will be explained more in a separate section. One more practical factor is the distance from which the juvenile resides. If a juvenile lives out of state or at a great distance (for example, Scottsbluff), there have been occasions where our office has declined prosecution rather than go through the expense of prosecuting someone where our office would have to rely upon a sheriff service.

In 2013, there were 121 participants referred to the Madison County Diversion Program. Stanton and Antelope County began their Juvenile Services Programs in July of 2012. Pierce County added their program in August 2013. Burt, Knox, Cedar, and Boone counties began their Juvenile Service Programs in 2014. The offenses which generated the highest number of cases handled by Madison County diversion were:

- Minor in Possession/Consumption of Alcohol – 36
- Assault/Disorderly Conduct/Disturbing the Peace – 13
- Theft/Shoplifting – 28
- Criminal Mischief – 5

Decision: Whether youth should be prosecuted as juvenile or adult.

Formal Determining Factors under NRS § 43-261 include the same criteria under NRS § 43-276 as listed in the previous section. In addition, NRS § 43-247 provides when charges can be brought in either court according to their ages or crime.

- a. Misdemeanors (16 or 17 years of age)
- b. Felonies (any age below 18)
- c. Traffic Offenses (any age below 18)

Informal
Determining
Factors

- a. Type of offense
- b. Age and maturity
- c. Living Independently
- d. Pending matters
- e. Prior history

Decision: Offense for which juvenile should be charged.

Normal Determining Factors under NRS § 43-279 include whether there is proof beyond a reasonable doubt the juvenile has committed the offense charged in the juvenile court petition.

Notes:

The County Attorney's Offices in the Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Justice Partnership Area charge individuals based on evidence. If there is evidence to support a juvenile court finding that the juvenile committed the offense beyond a reasonable doubt, then the juvenile will be charged with the offense that was committed. During the normal process of plea agreement negotiations, there may be compelling reasons to amend the charges to encourage a resolution of the matter that meets the goals sought by the State and the juvenile.

According to the statistics from the Madison County Court records, Madison County had a total of 280 records that were filed in Juvenile Court for 2013. Some of the offenses that had significant numbers were:

- Larceny-41
- Curfew – 2
- Assault – 22
- Possession of Alcohol – 20
- Drug offenses – 27
- Criminal Mischief – 28

SYSTEM POINT: PRE-ADJUDICATION DETENTION

PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge

STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-253(2)

Decision: Whether juvenile detained at the time of citation/arrest should continue in detention or out-of-home placement pending adjudication.

Options:

1. Parents/Guardians
2. Emergency Shelter
3. Staff Secure Facility
4. Secure Detention Facility
5. Electronic Monitoring
6. Tracker Services

Formal Determining Factors under NRS § 43-253

- a. Whether there is an “immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of such juvenile”
- b. Whether there is an “immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of... the person or property of another”
- c. Whether juvenile is likely to flee the jurisdiction of the court

Informal Determining Factors

- a. Seriousness of the Offense.
- b. Protection of the Public.
- c. Protection of the Juvenile.
- d. Need for Supervision.
- e. Flight Risk.
- f. Trust.

Notes:

Juveniles in detention are brought before the judge within the next juvenile court day and the court must decide whether the juvenile remains in detention. Counsel for the State typically offers to the Court copies of the arrest affidavit from the law enforcement agency and the detention authorization and intake information from the probation office. Counsel for the State usually visits with the parent ahead of time to determine if the parent has concerns for the juvenile and those concerns are relayed to the Court. Based on the seriousness of the offense and the need to protect the public and/or the juvenile, the Court can order that the juvenile (1) remain in detention pending another hearing, (2) be released to the custody of the parent or custodian, or (3) authorize the Department of Health and Human Services to find suitable placement. If the juvenile is released to the parent, the Court can issue Conditions of Release which are temporary court orders that govern the behavior and whereabouts of the juvenile. An electronic monitor can be ordered through the Juvenile Court. The electronic monitor will be administered by the designated county Juvenile Accountability/Services Program. The Juvenile Accountability/Services Officer can also perform tracker services where the juvenile can be subject to random visits to verify compliance with the Conditions of Release. If the juvenile remains in detention, the youth is placed in the Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Services detention center in Madison. This detention center has both Secure Detention and Staff Secure Detention. If the Department of Health and Human Services needs to

place a youth in an emergency shelter, they may place females in the Norfolk Group Home or males in different shelters in Nebraska. Other factors that affect the detention status are the juvenile's need for supervision and risk to flee the jurisdiction. A youth may also have a record of non-compliance with previous orders of the court. . During the calendar year of 2012, the Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Detention Center had the following youth go through their facility: Madison County sent 48 juveniles, Stanton County sent five juveniles and Antelope County sent seven juveniles. Some of those bookings were juveniles that were taken to the detention center after having been released previously. Others were "adults" who are still under the age of 18 and may be serving time on an adult charge.

SYSTEM POINT: PROBABLE CAUSE HEARING

PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge

STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-256

Decision: *Whether state can show that probable cause exists that juvenile is within the jurisdiction of the court.*

Formal Determining Factors under NRS § 43-253

a. Whether Probable Cause Exists

Informal Determining Factors

a. Whether Probable Cause Exists

Notes:

Whether an actual determination if probable cause exists to charge a juvenile with an offense is dependent upon whether a request for a probable cause hearing has been made. If a juvenile is charged with a felony as an adult, the juvenile is advised that there is a right to a preliminary hearing. At the detention hearing in juvenile court, the Court is typically provided with a copy of an arrest affidavit. In non-detention hearings, there is usually no request for a preliminary hearing. If there is any request made by the juvenile, it is to hold an adjudication hearing where a hearing can be held on the charges.

SYSTEM POINT: COMPETENCY EVALUATION

PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge

STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-258(1(b))

Decision: *Whether juvenile is competent to participate in the proceedings.*

Formal Determining Factors under NRS § 43-258

a. Concern for the Competency of the Juvenile

Informal Determining Factors

a. Concern for the Competency of the Juvenile

Notes:

If anyone involved in the juvenile court proceedings believes that there is a question whether the juvenile understands the proceedings or appreciates the nature of the offense, then a competency evaluation will be ordered. Not only will an evaluation be ordered but the Court will appoint a Guardian ad Litem to the juvenile and direct the Guardian ad Litem to meet with the juvenile and assist the juvenile in understanding the proceedings. Competency evaluations are not that common, but, when ordered, the evaluation can be done locally because there are several qualified psychologists. There have been referrals to psychologists who specialize in doing competency evaluations and adolescent evaluations that have been consulted.

Decision: *Whether juvenile is "responsible" for his/her acts* NRS § 43-258(1(c) and (2))

Formal Determining Factors under NRS § 43-258 a. Physician, Surgeon, Psychiatrist, Community Health Program, Psychologist b. Complete evaluation of the juvenile including any authorized area of inquiry requested by court.” (NRS § 43-258(2))	Informal Determining Factors a. Mental Health Professional. b. Evaluation submitted to the Court.
Notes: The experience in the eight-county area is that competency evaluations or evaluations to determine if a juvenile is “responsible” for the acts that led to the offense are not common. During the competency evaluation, the psychologist or psychiatrist will make a determination whether the juvenile knew right from wrong and knew whether the acts were done with an intended result.	

SYSTEM POINT: ADJUDICATION
PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge

STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-279 (2) and (3)

Decision: Whether the juvenile is, beyond a reasonable doubt, “a person described by section 43-247.”

Formal Determining Factors under NRS § 43-279 a. Legal sufficiency of evidence presented during adjudication hearing b. Whether juvenile admits the allegations of the petition (or, “pleads to the charges”)	Informal Determining Factors a. Is Evidence Beyond a Reasonable Doubt? b. Juvenile has the Right to Counsel. c. Rules of Evidence Apply. d. Admissions are Intelligent and Voluntary.
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Notes:

The juvenile courts in Counties of the Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Justice Partnership Area operate under the statutory framework and Nebraska case law. If a juvenile denies the charges in the juvenile court petition, an adjudication hearing is held where the State must present evidence beyond a reasonable doubt. Even though this is not “criminal” court, the State’s evidence is still bound by the rules of evidence. For example, the State cannot just present hearsay evidence unless it falls within one of the permitted exceptions to the hearsay rule. Juveniles have the right to counsel – court appointed if they cannot afford it. There is a general assumption that juveniles cannot afford counsel of their own due to their dependency on their parents. There have been occasions when a parent who has the financial wherewithal to afford counsel has been taxed with some of the costs of court-appointed counsel if they have chosen not to retain counsel for their children. In those cases, a parent has filled out a financial affidavit and the court has made a determination that they need to pay a portion of the court appointed costs. In many cases, the juvenile does admit to the charges instead of going to trial. In those cases, the judge will inquire of the juvenile if their admission is made freely and voluntarily with a full knowledge of the possible dispositions available. The judge will also ask the juvenile if

he or she knows that he or she is giving up the right to an adjudication hearing and all the other trial rights. The judge will then ask the juvenile what it is that he or she has done to commit the act alleged in the juvenile court petition. This ensures that the juvenile is making an intelligent plea and that there is an adequate factual basis to support the plea.

Decision: Whether to order probation to conduct a pre-disposition investigation.

Formal Determining Factors under NRS § 43-286

- a. Whether to Place Juvenile on Probation
- b. Whether to Permit the Juvenile to Remain in the family home or other suitable home.
- c. Whether to Commit to OJS or DHHS.

Informal Determining Factors

- a. Is Additional Information Needed?
- b. What is the Risk Level?
- c. What is the Appropriate Supervision Level?
- d. Whether to Order Restitution.

Notes:

It is the practice of the juvenile court of the eight-county area to determine the appropriate disposition for a juvenile after adjudication. Sometimes, the court has sufficient information following the adjudication to make a disposition immediately. For instance, if there is little to no prior history of delinquency and the juvenile is otherwise behaving at home and at school, the court will not order a pre-disposition investigation by the probation office. The dispositions available to the court range from the least restrictive (i.e. probation while residing in the family home) to the most restrictive dispositions (i.e. out-of-home placement in an institution). If the court believes it needs additional information in order to make a decision at disposition, then the juvenile is often ordered to submit to a pre-disposition investigation (PDI) with the probation office. The PDI generally takes 6 to 8 weeks to complete. The court then utilizes the PDI to determine the risk level and supervision level needed for the juvenile. Restitution may be an issue and information will be gathered for the PDI. If the juvenile has committed a felony, it is the general practice to order a PDI. If the juvenile has an extensive prior history, the juvenile is often ordered to submit to a PDI to determine what other options are left for the juvenile court.

Decision: Whether to order OJS evaluation NRS § 43-281

Formal Determining Factors under NRS § 43-281

- a. Need evaluation before committing to OJS

Informal Determining Factors

- a. What is the Appropriate Supervision Level?
- b. What Services are Needed?
- c. Further Insight into the Juvenile and Family

Notes:

There are times when the juvenile court needs additional insight into the juvenile and the juvenile's family in order to make an appropriate disposition. If one of the viable options for the juvenile is a commitment to the Office of Juvenile Services for appropriate placement, then the juvenile court must order an OJS evaluation prior to the commitment. Because the OJS evaluation contains a psychological evaluation as well as assessments for chemical dependency and psychiatric care, it is a valuable tool to gain insight to the juvenile. Because juvenile services are for the most part managed by Magellan Managed Care, juveniles cannot access care without the OJS evaluation. The OJS evaluation coordinator also scores the juvenile for risks and needs and ultimately makes a recommendation to the court for the appropriate supervision level and set of services. OJS evaluations are particularly ordered if the court believes that out-of-home

care is in the juvenile's best interests. Serious offenses like Sexual Assault will almost always trigger an order for an OJS evaluation.

Decision: Whether to order a PDI or OJS Evaluation

Formal Determining Factors under NRS § 43-286

- a. Presumably supplement each other
- b. Uncertainty about whether probation or commitment to OJS is in the juvenile's best interest

Informal Determining Factors

- a. Nature of the Offense
- b. Prior History
- c. Behaviors
- d. Family Circumstances

Notes:

It is the practice of the juvenile court to order the PDI before making any order for an OJS evaluation. If the probation officer makes a recommendation in the PDI for an OJS evaluation, the court will likely order an OJS evaluation. There are times when an OJS evaluation is ordered first if the court believes that a juvenile is in an emergency set of circumstances. There are only rare occasions that a PDI and an OJS evaluation are ordered at the same time. That is viewed as a duplication of efforts even though each process has its own distinction. Another reason why the PDI would be ordered first is that many times an OJS evaluation is not needed if the PDI recommends probation. In addition, the OJS evaluators like to have access to the PDI as a part of their collateral sources. Whether a PDI or OJS evaluation is ordered is often dependent on the nature of the offense, the juvenile's prior history, the juvenile's current behaviors and the family's circumstances.

SYSTEM POINT: DISPOSITION

PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge

STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-286 (1)

Decision: Whether to place juvenile on probation NRS § 43-286(1)(a)(i)

Formal Determining Factors under NRS § 43-286

- a. Whether Probation is Appropriate.

Informal Determining Factors

- a. Nature of the Offense
- b. Prior History
- c. Behaviors
- d. Family Circumstances

Notes:

Most dispositions in the juvenile court of the eight-county area end with an order of probation. It is the preferred option because it is the least restrictive rehabilitation plan. However, probation is only ordered if it is appropriate for the juvenile. The court takes the recommendations of the County Attorney's Office, the juvenile's counsel and/or guardian ad litem and even the parents into consideration when making a decision on disposition. As stated earlier, the court may need additional information that can be provided by a PDI or an OJS evaluation to determine if probation is appropriate. Whether probation is ordered is often dependent on the nature of the offense, the juvenile's prior history, the juvenile's current behaviors and the family's circumstances. The standard terms of the probation include such orders as restricting the juvenile's curfew, requiring the juvenile to obey all laws and rules of the family home, requiring attendance at school and compliance with school rules, making apologies and restitution to the victims, and the performance of community service hours. Probation will screen each youth using YLS, if a youth scores over a 16 they will be placed on Community Based Intervention. According to the District 7 Probation Office between May 1st, 2011 to May 1, 2012 the probation office completed 58 intakes on youth in the 7th judicial district. Of those

58 intakes, 32 were Madison County, 2 Stanton County and 4 were Antelope County. During May 1st, 2011 to May 1st, 2012, District 7 Probation Office supervised the following: Madison County—69 juveniles in 89 cases, Stanton County—15 juveniles in 16 cases and Antelope County—6 juveniles in 7 cases.

Decision: Whether to commit such juvenile to the Office of Juvenile Services NRS § 43-286(1)(b)

Formal Determining Factors under NRS § 43-286

- a. Whether OJS Commitment is Appropriate.
- b. Whether Out-Of-Home Care is Needed.
- c. Whether Juvenile Should Go to YRTC.

Informal Determining Factors

- e. Nature of the Offense
- f. Prior History
- g. Behaviors
- h. Family Circumstances
- i. Risk and Supervision Level
- j. Need for Services

Notes:

If an OJS evaluation has been ordered prior to disposition, the juvenile court will receive a comprehensive evaluation by one or more mental health professionals. The OJS evaluation will not only consist of a diagnosis and a second set of recommendations for care but a risk assessment. The OJS evaluation coordinator will make an ultimate recommendation based on all the factors. Those recommendations may range from probation to OJS commitment. If the recommendation for an OJS commitment is made, the OJS evaluation will advise what type of supervision level. Those levels can include a least restrictive method such as continuation in the family home with the legal custody ordered to OJS to the most restrictive method of placement at one of the two Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers in Nebraska. In between, the Office of Juvenile Services has access to placements such as foster homes, agency-based foster homes, group homes, treatment group homes, enhanced treatment group homes and residential treatment centers. All of these possible dispositions within the Office of Juvenile Services are very dependent on the nature of the offense, the juvenile's prior history, the juvenile's current behaviors, the family's circumstances and the juvenile's need for services. According to the YRTC-Kearney 2011-2012 annual report, there were 16 commitments from Madison County and per the YRTC-Geneva 2011-2012 annual report, there were five committed from Madison County and one from Stanton County.

Decision: Whether to place juvenile on probation and commit juvenile to HHS or OJS

Formal Determining Factors under NRS § 43-286

- a. No apparent authority for delinquent in the legal custody of parents/guardian.
- b. Gives probation responsibility of supervision, but opens access to HHS/OJS funds for treatment or rehabilitation.

Informal Determining Factors

- a. Need for Structure.
- b. Need for Supervision.
- c. Need for Services.

Notes:

The juvenile courts of the eight-county area try not to commit a juvenile to the Office of Juvenile Services and place them on probation. However, a juvenile may be placed on probation and have their legal custody with the Department of Health and Human Services if the juvenile has been adjudicated under NRS Section 43-247 (3)(b). It can be duplication of services by having a juvenile supervised by both the State Probation Office and DHHS. However, there are times when it is appropriate to place the juvenile under the structure of a probation order but also have access to services that are best provided by the Department of Health and Human Services. The State Probation Office does not have the funding available to it to provide services like the Department of Health and Human Services. In the eight-county area, efforts are made to locate agency help without accessing DHHS. Counties are in

the Region IV mental health district. Region IV has the Professional Partners Program (PPP). PPP has caseworkers that can meet with families in the Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Justice Partnership Area on a regular basis and design “wrap-around” services. The Professional Partners Program has a very good working relationship with the probation office and the Juvenile Court.

SYSTEM POINT: ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS

PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Probation

STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 29-2266

Decision: Whether to impose administrative sanctions on a probationer
Formal Determining Factors (NRS § 29-2266 (2))

- a. Probation officers have reasonable cause to believe that probationer has committed or is about to commit a substance abuse violation or a non-criminal violation
- b. Substance abuse violation refers to a positive test for drug or alcohol use, failure to report for such a test, or failure to comply with substance abuse evaluations or treatment
- c. Non-criminal violation means:
 - i. Moving traffic violations;
 - ii. Failure to report to his or her probation officer;
 - iii. Leaving the jurisdiction of the court or leaving the state without the permission of the court or his or her probation officer;
 - iv. Failure to work regularly or attend training school;
 - v. Failure to notify his or her probation officers of change of address or employment;
 - vi. Frequenting places where controlled substances are illegally sold, used, distributed, or administered;
 - vii. Failure to perform community service as directed;
 - viii. Failure to pay fines, court costs, restitution, or any fees imposed pursuant to section 29-2262.06.

Informal Determining Factors

- a. Whether violation is major or minor
- b. Whether violation can be handled informally through administrative sanction
- c. Whether juvenile cooperates in agreeing to the administrative sanction
- d. Whether parent agrees to assist juvenile in complying with sanction
- e. Whether an extension of probation is needed to handle violation

Notes:

The State Probation Office in Norfolk follows Nebraska law and its own rules and regulations regarding whether to impose an administrative sanction. If the probationer has violated the probation order but the type of violation can be handled informally, then the probation officer has the authority to request that the probationer submit to the administrative sanction. The probationer would sign a standard administrative sanctions form that requires them to agree that they violated their probation and requires them to agree to comply with an additional request of the probation officer. In the case of a substance abuse violation, the probation officer may request that the juvenile submit to a drug and alcohol evaluation and follow the recommendations. That may mean enrolling in a drug and alcohol

education course or engaging in substance abuse counseling. The probationer may also be instructed to report more frequently for drug testing. Such a sanction will avoid the necessity of reporting to court for a motion to revoke probation. Future violations may require the filing of a motion to revoke probation. Violations of affirmative duties such as paying restitution or performing community service hours may require the probationer to enter into an agreement to apply for an extension of the probation. That agreement is then sent down to the court for approval. Administrative sanctions have proved useful in handling minor probation violations rather than needing to go back to court for every issue.

SYSTEM POINT: MOTION TO REVOKE PROBATION

PARTY RESPONSIBLE: County Attorney

STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-286(4)(b)(i)

Formal Determining Factors under NRS § 43-286

- a. Probation Office Files Alleged Violation
- b. Law Enforcement Citation is a Violation

Informal Determining Factors

- a. Nature of the Violation.
- b. Severity of the Violation.
- c. Necessity for Accountability.
- d. Need for Alternative Disposition.

Notes:

The area County Attorney's Office is notified of probation violations generally in one of two ways. The State Probation Office may send an alleged probation violation to the county attorney's office. The document sent by the probation office sets forth the nature of the violation of probation. The other way for the county attorney's office to be notified is if there is a citation and/or report from a law enforcement agency and the internal records show that the juvenile is still on probation. Also, the county attorney's office may be notified of probation violations if contacted by the parent of the juvenile or contacted by the school where the juvenile attends. In any of these circumstances, the County Attorney's Office may file a motion to revoke probation alleging which conditions of probation have been violated. A hearing is set up by the juvenile court and the juvenile has a first hearing similar to the first hearing conducted on the original petition. In other words, the juvenile will be advised of his or her rights, possible consequences and possible pleas. Before filing a motion to revoke probation, the Madison County Attorney's Office may consult with the probation office to determine if the motion should be filed or if there are other alternatives to handling the violation such as administrative sanctions.

SYSTEM POINT: MODIFICATION/REVOCATION OF PROBATION

PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge

STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-286(4)(b)(v)

Formal Determining Factors under NRS § 43-286

- a. Should probation be modified?
- b. Should probation be extended?
- c. Should new disposition be entered?

Informal Determining Factors

- a. Recommendations by probation office.
- b. Recommendations by counsel.
- c. Recommendations by other professionals.

Notes:

Once a juvenile has been found in violation of the probation order, then the juvenile court has a limited amount of options. The critical question is whether the juvenile is a good candidate to remain on some form of probation. Often, the juvenile court will order a letter report from the probation office in order to obtain recommendations. In addition, letters of recommendation from professionals (counselors, social workers, school officials) working with the juvenile will

be obtained. During the disposition hearing, counsel of record will make recommendations to the court. If the juvenile court is under the belief that the juvenile is still making progress and making amends for the probation violation, then the court is more than likely going to keep the juvenile on some form of probation. That order can include an extension on probation. The probation order can be modified to include an additional condition such as counseling. There are also times where a probation order can be made more restrictive by either tightening the curfew conditions or implementing an order of intensive supervised probation. In the event that probation is revoked by the court, the juvenile court can either terminate the probation unsatisfactorily or institute a new order such as commitment to the Office of Juvenile Services. In that event, an OJS evaluation would be ordered first.

SYSTEM POINT: SETTING ASIDE ADJUDICATION

PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge

STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-2,104

Decision: Whether juvenile has satisfactorily completed his or her probation and supervision or the treatment program of his or her commitment NRS § 43-2,102

Formal Determining Factors under NRS § 43-2,103

- a. Juvenile's post-adjudication behavior and response to treatment and rehabilitation programs
- b. Whether setting aside adjudication will depreciate seriousness of juvenile's conduct or promote disrespect for law
- c. Whether failure to set aside adjudication may result in disabilities disproportionate to the conduct upon which the adjudication was based.

Informal Determining Factors

- a. Whether juvenile requests a set-aside.
- b. Whether State objects to set-aside.

Notes:

There is a procedure for a juvenile to have the adjudication set-aside after a successful completion of probation. However, an adjudication is set-aside only if the juvenile requests. There have been only a few requests for setting aside the adjudication. Typically, the juvenile is now older and is seeking to clear the record of a specific finding in the juvenile court. Absent any significant problems with the juvenile or the underlying case, the State typically does not object.

Decision: Whether juvenile should be discharged from the custody and supervision of OJS

Formal Determining Factors

- a. OJS authority under NRS § 43-412
- b. OJS to file discharge under NRS § 43-289
- c. Court jurisdiction continues under NRS § 43-295

Informal Determining Factors

- a. Whether juvenile has achieved goals.
- b. Whether OJS requests discharge.
- c. Whether further need for court involvement.

Notes:

When juveniles are committed to the Office of Juvenile Services, the juvenile is required to complete whatever goals have been designed by the Office of Juvenile Services. The OJS worker will create a case plan of goals and services and will implement recommendations made in the OJS evaluation. A key feature of the rehabilitation plan is a treatment plan in which the juvenile is involved in some type of therapeutic intervention. Typically, OJS will not discharge a

juvenile until the juvenile has met the goals of the case plan and the treatment plan. In addition, the juvenile will need to show compliance with the Conditions of Liberty Agreement. If the juvenile has been discharged from an out-of-home placement, the juvenile must demonstrate stability back in the family home or in some home in which permanency will be established. When OJS believes the juvenile is ready for discharge, a letter will be sent to the court requesting discharge and a hearing will be set. If the juvenile has been committed to one of the State's Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers, then the Office of Juvenile Services can discharge the juvenile from their custody without a court order. However, OJS will often follow the practice of requesting a discharge when the juvenile is deemed to have met all the expectations while on parole from the YRTC. There may be occasions when a request for discharge from OJS is entered but the juvenile may remain under the court's jurisdiction for a period of time to ensure that the transition back to the family home has been successful or in the event that a guardianship needs to be entered to provide the juvenile with permanency.

Section III

Community Socio-Economics

Madison County

Madison County is located in Northeast Nebraska. It is bordered by Stanton, Platte, Boone, Antelope, and Pierce Counties. The main highway that runs north and south in the county is U.S. Highway 81; the main highways running east and west are U.S. Highway 275 in the northern half of the county and Nebraska Highway 32 in the southern half of the county. Nebraska Highways 24, 35, 45, and 121 also cross through Madison County. U.S Highway 81 is a main thoroughfare crossing north to south through the United States and brings a variety of people from all along the highway through Madison County.

Located within Madison County are the cities/towns of Battle Creek, Madison, Meadow Grove, Newman Grove, Norfolk, and Tilden (partial). The total population of Madison County, in the 2010 U.S. Census was 34,876; with 24,210 of those residents residing within the limits of the city of Norfolk: the 9th largest city in the state. The total overall population of Madison County is down from the year 2000, when it was listed as being 35,226. This marks the first time in U.S. Census History that Madison County has suffered from a decrease in county population in more than 100 years.

Many of the major economic pillars are located in or very near to Norfolk, Nebraska. They include Nucor/Vulcraft, Affiliated Foods, Covidien, Wal-Mart, and Faith Regional Health Services. Another of the major economic pillars in Madison County is the Tyson Foods plant located in the county seat, Madison, Nebraska. All of these businesses not only supply residents of Madison and surrounding communities jobs, but also attract prospective employees from across the country and from bordering nations to Madison County.

Located within Madison County are two collegiate/trade schools. They are Northeast Community College and Joseph's College of Beauty. Both are located in Norfolk, Nebraska. Both of these schools bring in young adults from around the Midwest area and students from across the country into Madison County.

Given the number of economic opportunities available in Madison County, and the opportunities for higher learning also presented, a variety of different cultures, outlooks, familial values, and views of government officials are present within this northeast Nebraska county, presenting local law enforcement, county government, and juvenile accountability officers a wide array of individuals to encounter in a myriad of situations.

Madison County is also home to 14 different primary level public schools, three middle schools, and four high schools (including the Alternatives for Success, alternative high school). Madison

County also is home to 10 private schools encompassing both primary and secondary levels of education.

Madison County is also home to the easternmost portion of the Cowboy Trail, Skyview Lake, and to the Yellowbanks State Wildlife Management Area. It is also home to the Off Road Ranch and Divots Devent Center, both of which bring in revenue and visitors from around the area, state, and the Midwest for special events, concerts and more. These specific attractions along with several local events, including the Christian Cross Festival and Big Bang Boom, put on by bars, churches, civic organizations, and other local businesses combine to attract a large number of individuals from the surrounding area to Madison County. These attractions also bring with them their fair share of juveniles and the challenges that accompany them as they attend concerts and other events at these locations.

Also located in Madison County are numerous parks located in each of the towns found within the county, presenting several locations for juveniles to congregate.

In addition to the above mentioned attractions, Madison County also is the home to the Department of Health and Human Services' Norfolk Regional Center, a 120-bed sex offender treatment center.

The population of Madison County, based on 2010 U.S. Census data contains 4,504 persons of Hispanic/Latino descent and 30,372 persons of non-Hispanic/Latino descent. The remaining racial breakdown of the population of Madison County is listed below.

MADISON COUNTY POPULATION BY RACE

White	30,752	88.175%
African American	444	1.273%
Asian	167	LESS THAN 1%
American Indian/Alaska Native	401	1.150%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	16	LESS THAN 1%
Other	2,486	7.128%
Identified by two or more	610	1.750%

2010 U.S. Census Data

17,314 of the population, via the 2010 U.S. Census are listed as male, and 17,562 are listed as female. 8,727 of these individuals are listed as being under the age of 18, while another 2,458 are listed as being between the ages of 20-24. This equates to approximately 25% of the total population of Madison County being under the age of 18. There are 4,399 households in Madison County that are identified as having individuals under the age of 18 residing there. The remainder of the county's age breakdown is listed on the following page.

MADISON COUNTY POPULATION BY AGE

Under 18	8,727	25.023%
20-24	2,458	7.048%
25-34	4,276	12.261%
35-49	6,286	18.024%
50-64	6,821	19.558%
65 & Over	5,124	14.692%

2010 U.S. Census Data

Given the large amount of juveniles showcased in the above chart, and the wide variety of opportunities present within the county, it is obvious that Madison County is a growing county and is in need of a multifaceted, multi-agency approach towards working for/with local youths and their families to maintain a safe and positive community environment for everyone coming to Madison County.

STANTON COUNTY

Stanton County is located in Northeast Nebraska. It is bordered by Cuming, Colfax, Platte, Madison, and Wayne Counties. The main thoroughfare that runs through Stanton County is U.S Highway 275, which runs from east to west in the northern end of the county, and Nebraska Highway 35 which crosses over the northwestern corner of the county. Nebraska Highways 15, 24, 32, and 57 also cross through Stanton County.

Stanton, the county seat, is the larger of the two towns located in Stanton County, with the other being Pilger. The total population of Stanton County, based on the 2010 U.S. Census, is 6,129. This is down from the total population of the county in the 2000 U.S. Census, which was 6,455.

The main economic structure of Stanton County is agriculturally based, including farming and small businesses related to the agricultural field.

Stanton County is home to two primary schools, one middle school, one high school, and one private school that encompasses the primary grade levels.

Located within Stanton County is the Wood Duck State Wildlife Management Area and Maskenthine Lake Recreation Area. Both of these areas attract people from the surrounding area who enjoy taking part in a variety of outdoor and water activities including camping, fishing, boating, hiking, and bike trails.

Much like most other agriculturally centered counties in the Midwest, Stanton County is composed of a few small towns, in this case two, and is surrounded by large amounts of open farmland and other wildlife areas. Given this make up, the overall amount of attractions and activities found in the county is severely limited. The closest economic centers to Stanton

County are Norfolk, located in Madison County; Wayne, located in Wayne County; and West Point, located in Cuming County.

Based on the 2010 U.S. Census, Stanton County has a total population of 6,129 people. Of these people 281 of them are of Hispanic/Latino descent, and 5,848 people of non-Hispanic/Latino descent. Further breakdowns of Stanton County by race are listed in the chart below.

STANTON COUNTY BY RACE

White	5,814	94.860%
African American	41	LESS THAN 1%
Asian	6	LESS THAN 1%
American Indian or Alaska Native	25	LESS THAN 1%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0	0%
Other	173	2.823%
Identified by two or more	70	1.142%

2010 U.S. Census Data

The U.S. Census data for 2010 lists that there are 3,031 males living within Stanton County, and 3,098 females. 1,684 of these individuals are under the age of 18. 271 individuals are between the ages of 20-24. The percentage of the population that are under the age of 18 is almost 27.5%. There are 835 households in Stanton County that have juveniles under the age of 18 living in them. The remainder of the county's age divisions are listed in the chart below.

STANTON COUNTY BY AGE

Under 18	1,684	27.456%
20-24	271	4.421%
25-34	754	12.302%
35-49	1,171	19.106%
50-64	1,255	20.476%
65 & over	865	14.113%

2010 U.S. Census Data

As noted above, there is a large percentage of the population of Stanton County that is under the age of 18 and therefore under the potential oversight of the Juvenile Accountability Office. Given the close proximity of Stanton County to Norfolk, Nebraska and all of the opportunities that are presented within that town, it is likely that the numbers of juveniles residing in Stanton County will not change drastically, as different families take up residence within Stanton County. Much like other rural agriculturally based counties, however, there is, in general, an overall lacking of options when it comes to positive, safe, and productive opportunities within the county for juveniles to partake in. Those options that do exist are mostly small in size and limited in the amount of outreach and advertising that they can do to attract new youth to them. As such, it is vital for the wellbeing of the youth located within Stanton County that the

opportunities within the county and surrounding areas are promoted to the youth in the area. This is to assist the families, youth, and support services individuals working with youth in the county maintain a positive, safe, and law-abiding environment for all.

ANTELOPE COUNTY

Antelope County is located in Northeast Nebraska. It is bordered by Pierce, Madison, Boone, Wheeler, Holt and Knox Counties. U .S. Highway 20 and U.S. Highway 275 are the main thoroughfares that pass through the county. Nebraska Highways 13, 14, 45, and 70 also pass through the county.

Located within Antelope County are the towns of Brunswick, Clearwater, Elgin, Neligh, Oakdale, Orchard, Royal, and Tilden (partial). The largest city in the county is the county seat of Neligh with a total population in the 2010 census of 1,599. The total overall population of Antelope County is 6,685. This overall population is down from the population taken in the 2000 U.S. Census, which was 7,452.

The main economic structure of Antelope County is agriculturally based, and includes farming and small businesses related to the agricultural field.

Antelope County is home to four primary schools, four high schools, and two private schools covering both primary and high school levels.

Ashfall Fossil Beds is located within Antelope County and attracts tourists from the surrounding area of the Midwest and visitors from around the world.

Like many agriculturally based economic counties in the Midwest, Antelope County is composed of a number of small towns surround by farmland. As such, the number of attractions and activities, aside from some small locally based activities from time to time, is less than in more populated areas. The closest economic centers to Antelope County are the towns of O'Neill, located in Holt County; and Norfolk, located in Madison County. This means that aside from a few small local attractions, that residents, including juveniles, are forced to create their own entertainment or to travel some distance to neighboring towns and counties to pursue other options of entertainment, shopping, and the like.

Based on the 2010 U.S. Census, Antelope County has a total population of 178 individuals of Hispanic/Latino descent, and 6,507 people of non-Hispanic/Latino descent. The complete breakdown by race in Antelope County according to the 2010 U.S. Census is show in the table on the next page.

ANTELOPE COUNTY BY RACE

White	6,517	97.487%
African American	19	LESS THAN 1%
Asian	20	LESS THAN 1%
American Indian and Alaska Native	11	LESS THAN 1%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	0	0%
Other	77	1.152%
Identified by two or more	41	LESS THAN 1%

Antelope County is composed of 3,329 males and 3,356 females. 1,574 people in the county are under the age of 18, with only 260 others being between the ages of 20-24. Given these numbers, approximately 23.5% of the population of Antelope County is under the age of 18, and therefore considered to be juveniles in the state of Nebraska. There are 757 households in Antelope County with individuals under the age of 18 residing in them. The remainder of the county's age break down is listed in the chart below.

ANTELOPE COUNTY POPULATION BY AGE

UNDER 18	1,574	23.545%
20-24	260	3.889%
25-34	628	9.394%
35-49	1,130	16.904%
50-64	1,563	23.381%
65 & Over	1,404	21.002%

2010 U.S. Census Data

Given the above information, including the large number of juveniles in Antelope County in comparison to young adults, it appears that there is little to attract young adults to Antelope County. This in turn lends itself to the struggles faced by the large juvenile population within the county as they attempt to find meaningful, safe, and legal opportunities to fill their spare time. Given this information, it is obvious that it is imperative to identify and promote the activities that are found in and around Antelope County to assist these juveniles and their families in maintaining a safe and healthy environment for the juveniles.

Pierce County

Pierce County, Nebraska is home to 7,266 residents according to the 2010 U.S. Census. It is located in the northern northeast part of the state. Only one county separates Pierce County from the South Dakota border. Pierce County is bordered by Cedar, Wayne, Antelope, Knox, and Madison Counties. The major highways that cross Pierce County are U.S. Highways 20 and 81 and Nebraska Highways 13, 98, and 121.

Pierce (population 1,767) is the county seat. The other communities that make up Pierce County are Foster, Hadar, McLean, Osmond, and Plainview. There are three main school districts in the county which include Pierce Public Schools, Plainview Public Schools, and Osmond Public Schools. There are also a few private schools including Zion Lutheran Elementary Schools in Pierce and Plainview, Immanuel Lutheran Elementary Schools in Hadar and Osmond, and St. Mary Elementary School in Osmond.

Pierce County is home to the beautiful and popular Willow Creek State Recreation Area just outside of Pierce. This is a 700 acre lake complete with boat ramps, hiking and biking trails, camping, fishing, playground equipment, and an archery range. Many people are attracted from surrounding counties to partake in the activities at Willow Creek especially during the summer months.

Another local attraction that is unique to the area is the Klown Doll Museum located in Plainview. The museum is the home to over 7,000 Klown dolls and is open six days per week during the summer months.

The small communities that are a part of Pierce County have very nice city parks and recreational areas many with fairly updated playground equipment, swimming pools, and baseball complexes. The annual Pierce County Fair in the summer is a highlight in the area and draws many local youth and other visitors from surrounding counties that enjoy partaking in the activities that this event brings.

Pierce which is the largest community in the county is only 15 miles from Norfolk and many people travel to Norfolk to work and spend leisure time. Many youth in Pierce County go to Norfolk in search of additional recreational opportunities not offered in their own smaller communities.

Based on the U.S. Census data from 2010, Pierce County is predominantly white in its racial breakdown. Out of the total Pierce County population of 7,266 residents, only 119 do not identify themselves as white. A total of 93 people in the county identify themselves as being of Hispanic/Latino descent. A table showing the statistics of Pierce County's breakdown by race is displayed below.

PIERCE COUNTY BY RACE

White	7,147	98.362%
African American	14	LESS THAN 1%
Asian	12	LESS THAN 1%
American Indian/Alaska Native	16	LESS THAN 1%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0.000%
Other	39	LESS THAN 1%
Identified by two or more	38	LESS THAN 1%

2010 U.S. Census Data

Out of all the counties included in the Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Justice Partnership Plan, Pierce County has the highest percentage of youth under the age of 18 in the county. Just over

28 percent of Pierce County's population is under the age of 18. Additionally, there is a fairly small percentage of young adults in the area which suggests that many may leave the area in search of more opportunities offered in larger areas. The complete statistical breakdown of the age of the population in Pierce County can be seen on the following below.

PIERCE COUNTY POPULATION BY AGE

Under 18	2,038	28.048%
20-24	261	3.592%
25-34	749	10.308%
35-49	1,451	19.970%
50-64	1,463	20.135%
65 & Over	1,304	17.947%

2010 U.S. Census Data

As has been the challenge of nearly every rural county included in the Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Justice Partnership Plan, there are a limited number of positive experiences and attractions to draw the youth and keep them occupied in safe, meaningful activities.

Cuming County

Cuming County is located in the northeastern part of the state of Nebraska and is in the Elkhorn River Valley. It is adjacent to the other counties of Burt and Stanton which were earlier described in the plan. It is also surrounded by Thurston, Dodge, Colfax, and Wayne Counties. The major highways that run through Cuming County are U.S. Highway 275 and Nebraska State Highway 32.

The county seat of Cuming County is West Point. The other small towns that make up Cuming County are Bancroft, Beemer, and Wisner. The total population of Cuming County is 9,139. The largest community in Cuming County is West Point with a population of 3,364 as of the 2010 U.S. Census.

Cuming County's economic structure is agriculturally based and is home to many family farms many which are actively involved in the production of livestock and grain.

Cuming County has a total of eight schools including four primary schools, one middle school, and three high schools.

Cuming County's small communities have several parks for recreation including Wilderness Park, Timmerman Memorial Park, Wisner River Park, and Boy Scout Memorial Park. There are two museums which are the Cuming County Heritage Museum Complex and the Wisner Heritage Museum. There are also two theaters: the Beemer Community Theater and the West Point Community Theater.

Although regular recreation sources may be limited, there are several fun events during the year that bring in visitors from surrounding communities. There is the Leprechaun Run held every

year in Wisner for their annual St. Patrick's celebration. There is also the Last Fling 'Til Spring Car Show which is held in September each year. Finally, there is the annual Thunder by the River Tractor Pull which draws extremely large crowds each year from surrounding areas in Northeast Nebraska and beyond.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, of the 9,139 people that make Cuming County their home 754 are of Hispanic/Latino descent. This represents nearly 8.25% of the total population in Cuming County. Further breakdown of Cuming County by race are listed in the chart below.

CUMING COUNTY BY RACE

White	8,518	93.205%
African American	13	LESS THAN 1%
Asian	18	LESS THAN 1%
American Indian/Alaska Native	29	LESS THAN 1%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	3	LESS THAN 1%
Other	456	4.990%
Identified by two or more	102	1.116%

2010 U.S. Census Data

Cuming County has a significant portion of its residents under the age of 18. Nearly 27 percent of the population falls into this range. Of the 3,756 total households in Cuming County, a total of 1,037 of them have youth living in them under the age of 18. The remaining age divisions in Cuming County are summarized in the chart below.

CUMING COUNTY POPULATION BY AGE

Under 18	2,466	26.983%
20-24	335	3.665%
25-34	903	9.880%
35-49	1,686	18.448%
50-64	1,848	20.221%
65 & Over	1,901	20.880%

2010 U.S. Census Data

Given the above information, including the large number of juveniles in Cuming County in comparison to young adults, it appears that there is little to attract young adults to Cuming County. This may suggest that it may be challenging to find meaningful, safe, and legal opportunities to fill their spare time. Given this information, it is crucial to identify and promote whatever available activities there are in and around Cuming County to help these juveniles and their families in maintaining a safe and healthy environment for the youth.

Burt County

Burt County is located on the east border of the state of Nebraska in the northern part of the state. It is positioned halfway between Omaha, Nebraska and Sioux City, Iowa. Burt County is a very rural area, but it is located only 25 miles from Interstate 29. It borders Iowa and is surrounded by the Nebraska counties of Thurston, Washington, Dodge, and Cuming. The major highways that go through Burt County are U.S. Highway 75, U.S. Highway 77, Nebraska Highway 32, and Nebraska Highway 51.

Burt County is comprised mostly of small towns. The primary communities in Burt County are Tekamah, Oakland, Lyons, Decatur, and Craig. The largest of these towns is Tekamah (population 1,823) which is also the county seat of Burt County. There are three main public school districts in Burt County which consist of the Tekamah-Herman, Oakland-Craig, and Lyons-Decatur Northeast.

The main economic structure of Burt County is agriculturally based, including farming and small businesses located in the communities. Nearly 66 percent of the people employed in Burt County travel to some other city or area to work.

The communities in Burt County hold various events throughout the year that attract both local residents and visitors. The very popular Warrior Dash was held in Tekamah in 2014. Tekamah also holds the Hoot Gibson Memorial Rodeo. Oakland is the host of the Swedish Festival which is held during the first weekend of June on odd numbered years. Decatur hosts Riverfront Days during June as well.

Some of the area attractions in Burt County are the Burt County Museum, the Summit Lake State Recreation Area, and the Pelican Point State Recreation Area. Burt County also boasts some of the best waterfowl hunting in the area due to the fact that the county is on the migratory bird path. This draws many hunters to the area during the appropriate season.

Based on the 2010 U.S. Census, Burt County has a total population of 6,858 people. Of these people, 126 were of Hispanic/Latino descent and 6,732 were of non-Hispanic/Latino descent. Further breakdowns of Burt County by race are listed in the chart below.

BURT COUNTY BY RACE

White	6,579	95.932%
African American	26	LESS THAN 1%
Asian	17	LESS THAN 1%
American Indian/Alaska Native	115	LESS THAN 1%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	2	LESS THAN 1%
Other	35	LESS THAN 1%
Identified by two or more	84	LESS THAN 1%

2010 U.S. Census Data

According to the U.S. Census data for 2010 seen in the chart below, nearly 24.4% of the population of Burt County is under the age of 18. This is nearly one quarter of the population living in this county and is potentially subject to the oversight of the Juvenile Accountability Office. Like many of the other rural Nebraska counties described in the Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Justice Plan, Burt County is limited in opportunities and ongoing activities for its area youth.

BURT COUNTY POPULATION BY AGE

Under 18	1,675	24.424%
20-24	220	3.208%
25-34	607	8.851%
35-49	1,232	17.965%
50-64	1,539	22.441%
65 & Over	1,585	23.111%

2010 U.S. Census Data.

Boone County

Boone County is the southern-most county included in the Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Justice Partnership Plan. It is surrounded by Madison, Platte, Greely, Wheeler, and Nance Counties. Several highways run across Boone County. They include Nebraska Highways 14, 32, 39, 45, 52, 56, and 91. Boone County is also comprised of a series of very small towns. The largest of these communities is Albion with a population of 1,650 according to the 2010 U.S. Census. Other communities in Boone County include Cedar Rapids, Petersburg, Raeville, Primrose, and St. Edward.

Boone County is mostly an agricultural area with many producing farms in operation. There are, however, other significant employers in the area including Cargill, Sentinel Building Systems, the Valero Renewables Ethanol Plant, and Source Gas. The largest employer in Boone County is the Boone County Health Center which employs more than 240 people.

There are three public school districts in Boone County which are as follows: Boone Central Schools, Cedar Rapids Public Schools, and St. Edward Public Schools. There are two private schools in Boone County which include St. Michael's School in Albion (grades K – 8) and St. John the Baptist (grades 1 through 6).

There are a few significant recreational opportunities in Boone County. The new Albion Family Aquatic Center just opened in June of 2014. It is a type of water park that attracts people from surrounding communities as well with its water slide, zero-depth entry, diving boards, and cargo net play area. There is also the Olson Nature Preserve which offers hiking trails and access to nature. Finally, there is the Albion Speedway which has long been popular entertainment on a weekend for stock car fans in the area. There is also the Boone County Fitness Center which is an asset to the community. The center is complete with a swimming pool, weights, spinning room, racquetball court, hot tub, and sauna.

Although small in size the town of Petersburg attracts statewide attention each year with its annual Punkin' Chunkin' contest in late October of each year. The Punkin' Chunkin' contest is actually a nationally sanctioned event with the winner being eligible to compete in the World Championship. Each year, participants shoot, launch, or fling 6 to 12 pound pumpkins across the wide open fields near the town.

Some Boone County events that attract visitors and occupy local residents are the annual Rhythm and Ribs Festival in Albion which features food sampling and live bands. There is also the Smoke and Chrome event which features cars and cycles for viewing. The Boone County Fair held in Albion is another highlight of the summer with various events.

The demographic breakdown by race is seen on the table below. Boone County is primarily inhabited by those that identify themselves as white. Out of the total of 5,505 residents that live in Boone County, only 83 categorize themselves as a race other than white.

BOONE COUNTY BY RACE

White	5,422	98.492%
African American	23	LESS THAN 1%
Asian	11	LESS THAN 1%
American Indian/Alaska Native	12	LESS THAN 1%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	LESS THAN 1%
Other	18	LESS THAN 1%
Identified by two or more	18	LESS THAN 1%

2010 U.S. Census Data

Just over ¼ of the population in Boone County is under the age of 18 years old. Out of the 2,336 total households in Boone County, 616 of them have children in them under the age of 18. There is the strong potential that the services offered by the Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Justice Partnership Team will be continued to be utilized for this sector of the population. As can be evidenced by the building of the recent water park in Albion, Boone County is attempting to take steps to attract and maintain the younger members of the population. The remaining age groups are summarized below in the table.

BOONE COUNTY POPULATION BY AGE

Under 18	1,426	25.904%
20-24	234	4.251%
25-34	479	8.701%
35-49	996	18.093%
50-64	1,206	21.907%
65 & Over	1,164	21.144%

2010 U.S. Census Data

Knox County

Knox County, Nebraska is located in the very northernmost part of the state and borders the Lewis and Clark Lake on the Missouri River. Knox County is on the South Dakota Border. The Nebraska counties that are directly adjacent to Knox County are Cedar, Pierce, Antelope, Holt, and Boyd. Major Nebraska Highways that stretch across Knox County are Highways 12, 13, 14, 59, 84, and 121.

The towns and communities found in Knox County are very small. The largest community in Knox County is the town of Creighton (population 1,154). The other communities that make up Knox County are Bazile Mills, Bloomfield, Center, Crofton, Niobrara, Santee, Verdel, Verdigre, Wausa, and Winnetoon.

Knox has several school districts including Bloomfield Community Schools, Creighton Public Schools, Crofton Community Schools, Niobrara Public Schools, Santee Community Schools, Wausa Public Schools, and Nebraska Unified District #1 (Verdigre). Knox County also has a couple of private schools: St. Ludger Elementary School in Creighton and St. Rose of Lima Elementary School in Crofton.

Knox County has many outdoor attractions due to its location relative to the Niobrara and Missouri Rivers. One of the main locations to visit is Niobrara State Park which offers several activities such as camping, hiking, swimming, horseback trail rides, and raft tours. Other such outdoor attractions found in Knox County are the Lewis and Clark Trail, the Elk and Buffalo Trail, and the Grove Trout Rearing Station.

Other attractions in Knox County include the Ohiya Casino which is located a few minutes east of Niobrara. There are also several city parks and four 9-hole golf courses within the county. During the month of December, Creighton hosts Santa Land which is the town's annual Christmas Festival and Light Display. This attraction draws several families to the area both locally and from other communities in the state.

During the summer months, various festivals and fun activities are held in Knox County. Verdigre holds its Kolach Days in the month of June. Desperado Days are held in July on Outlaw Trail in Niobrara. Creighton also hosts Berry Pepper Days in June.

The racial composition of Knox County is mostly white. There is a significant percentage of Native American population in the county as well. Out of the 8,701 people that reside in Knox County, 786 of them or just over 9 percent, are classified as American Indian or Alaska Native. This is a result of the Santee Sioux Reservation being located in the county. The major town on the reservation is Santee. A detailed breakdown by race in Knox County is shown on the following page.

KNOX COUNTY BY RACE

White	7,753	89.105%
African American	8	LESS THAN 1%
Asian	17	LESS THAN 1%
American Indian/Alaska Native	786	9.033%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0%
Other	20	LESS THAN 1%
Identified by two or more	117	1.345%

2010 U.S. Census Data

According to the U.S. Census data for 2010 seen in the chart below, nearly 26 percent of the population of Knox County is under the age of 18. This is nearly one quarter of the population living in this county and is potentially subject to the oversight of the Juvenile Accountability Office. Like many of the other rural Nebraska counties described in the Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Justice Plan, Knox County faces the same challenges for its youth of there being limited activities in which they can be regularly engaged.

KNOX COUNTY POPULATION BY AGE

Under 18	2,263	26.008%
20-24	296	3.402%
25-34	747	8.585%
35-49	1,473	16.929%
50-64	1,943	22.331%
65 & Over	1,979	22.745%

2010 U.S. Census Data

Section V

Identified Priority Areas & Corresponding Strategies

Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Justice Partnership's Prioritized Needs

Priority One (Issued Based)

To decrease the rate of substance abuse of the youth in the Northeast Nebraska area

Due to the unacceptable numbers of youth in the eight-county area who use and abuse illegal drugs and alcohol, it will be a priority to take all possible steps to lower the rates of substance abuse among this population. This goal will be met by taking a multi-pronged approach with cooperation among the eight-county area's court system and various agencies in the area.

Decreasing the rate of substance abuse can include efforts to educate the youth to the dangers of substance abuse. Madison County Juvenile Accountability Officers currently present the Alternatives Youth Diversion Education Program to youth who have been placed on diversion, along with youth on Juvenile Services Program in the eight-county area. The Alternatives Program could possibly be expanded to reach out to youth that are not currently on diversion as a preventative and proactive step.

There are currently many youth on probation for various drug and alcohol offenses that may benefit from the information contained in the Alternatives Program. These youth could be referred to the program by their probation officers. There are other youth that the area schools may come into contact with that school personnel recognize as being at risk for using and abusing illegal drugs and alcohol. The area judges could even use the Alternatives Program as part of the sentencing phase. Counselors in Professional Partners that counsel at-risk youth would also be free to refer some of their clients to the program. As long as there are grant funds to support the Alternatives Program, the community should rightfully receive maximum benefit.

It is the goal of the eight-county area to utilize other educational venues including schools, substance abuse counselors, wrap-around services, professionals, and other related services to further educate youth about the dangers of substance abuse. These venues could also assist in getting youth that are already engaged in substance abuse to the best possible resources for their issues.

It would also be beneficial to youth that are susceptible to substance abuse to become involved in other meaningful, positive activities. The eight counties would work with area churches, civic organizations, and youth groups to identify opportunities for the juveniles to become involved in their community. The Community Team will work to identify contact persons which enable the Juvenile Accountability/Services Officers, parents, and juveniles to more easily gain access to positive opportunities within the community.

The Community Team will work with local police and sheriff's departments to identify troubled areas of the community and individuals who are currently abusing substances or are prone to do so. It is important to have a unified approach among area law enforcement agencies involved with the youth within the eight-county area. This would eliminate some of the inconsistencies between counties and agencies for the handling of youth caught with illegal substances or alcohol.

The goal of decreasing the rate of substance abuse in the eight-county area will be implemented on the following timeline:

Year 1: Identify all possible organizations, schools, and venues that may have a crucial role in preventing youth from getting involved in substance abuse. A list will be compiled of all available support resources in the eight-county area and a contact list of people from various schools, support agencies, county offices, probation, etc. will be created.

Services such as the eight-county Diversion and Juvenile Services Program will be offered to youth, along with a Voluntary Juvenile Services Program for youth who are in risk of becoming involved in criminal activity or substance abuse. Wrap around services through Professional Partners will also be provided.

Meetings will be held with law enforcement agencies in the eight-county area to learn about the specific issues each agency has regarding juveniles involved in drug and alcohol activity.

Year 2: Review all resources and work together with all organizations involved in trying to promote positive activities to the youth in the eight-county area.

Continue Services as described in Year #1.

Year 3: Review year one and two's progress and continue to work with all agencies involved in reducing substance abuse with juveniles in the eight-county area.

Continue Services as described in Year #1.

Priority Two (Organization Based)

To enhance and expand the Alternatives Youth Diversion Education Program
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The Alternatives Youth Diversion Education Program has been an important part of the diversion program/juvenile services programs for the past couple of years. Classes are currently held two evenings a month at the Lifelong Learning Center at the Northeast Community College campus. Classes are currently divided into two 4-hour evenings. The classes cover such topics as the 40 Developmental Assets, illegal drugs, alcohol usage, making better choices, and the importance of positive relationships.

Juvenile Accountability Officer, Michelle Sullivan, currently teaches the Alternatives Youth Diversion Program. The program consists of a PowerPoint lecture, videos, student group activities, written assignments, and guest speakers. One of the current guest speakers has been a police officer with the Norfolk Police Division. There has been discussion about possibly adding a carefully selected guest speaker who overcame their addictions to drugs and/or alcohol. A speaker has been recently identified and will be utilized for upcoming classes. Other guest speakers may be added to the curriculum as the need or interest arises.

Currently the classes are only offered in Madison County, but it is the goal of the Community Team to expand the geographical scope of where the course is offered. The Community Team

will be actively promoting the class to other agencies in the area to be utilized by them in their work with juveniles. The other agencies could either refer youth that would benefit from the program to the Madison County classes offered at Northeast College, or a copy of the materials and slide presentation could be utilized by the other agencies for their own usage.

Some juveniles continue to have issues and violations even after being in the diversion program. For these more difficult juvenile cases, an advanced class or probation classes could be offered that would be more intensive and would include additional topics such as avoiding peer pressure, improving relationships with parents and teachers, and concentrating on making the right choice when they find themselves in a future predicament.

The anticipated timeline for the enhancement and expansion of the Alternatives Youth Diversion Education Program is as follows:

Year 1: Add additional guest speakers to the program content. They could possibly be obtained from contacting the local probation office and asking for recommendations. The process for creating an advanced or follow-up Alternatives Youth Diversion Program could be started.

Madison County Juvenile Services will present the Alternatives Program to school staff members and other interested organizations in order to reach out to additional youth in the eight-county area.

Year 2: Complete the advanced or follow-up Alternatives Youth Diversion Program and begin to bring youth into the program. The goal of sharing the Alternatives Program with other interested agencies should be implemented and completed by this time as well.

Year 3: The Alternatives Youth Diversion Programs could be streamlined and fully implemented by other area agencies that could benefit from presenting the program.

Priority Three (Organization Based)

To increase collaboration between juvenile support service groups within the Northeast Nebraska Area.

The Community Team will work to identify all support service options within the eight-county area that could be utilized for those juveniles on the program. While there are many organizational partners that currently work with the juveniles in the diversion program and the juvenile services program, there are undoubtedly additional service groups that might be unknown to the county or currently underutilized. Research would be done to determine all of the service groups in the area and what additional services that these groups offer that may have not been used previously.

The Community Team will compile a comprehensive list of the services offered and the proper avenue to obtain the available services. A timeline has been established in order to accomplish this goal:

Year #1: Research and identify ways to increase the ease at which the Community Team and involved agencies can work with other agencies and utilize their services.

Year #2: Commence the implementation of the options identified in the previous year.

Year #3: The collaboration between the eight-county area and juvenile support service groups will be at a comfortable working relationship by this point.

Priority Four (Issue Based)

To assist area at-risk youth in need of mental health treatment in getting the appropriate services that they require

Due to the recent changes in legislation and Medicaid programs in the past year we are finding several youth who have no access to mental health services. The Community Team will be working with area agency providers and service programs to help meet the needs of youth in the Northeast Nebraska area.

(The Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Justice Partnership Team is currently working on strategies and the needs of youth in this area.)

Priority Five (Issued Based)

To reduce levels of truancy within the Madison, Stanton, Antelope, Pierce, Cuming, Burt, Boone and Knox County school systems

Truancy continues to be a major issue in the Norfolk Public Schools which are located in Madison County. The Norfolk Public Schools would be the largest school system in the eight-county area. There are several youth in the area that are choosing not to attend school or simply do not have the means to attend school because of parents who simply cannot transport the youth to school or choose not to.

It will be crucial to the success of this priority for the Partnership Team to work directly with school staff and the families of truant juveniles to specifically identify the causes of the truancy situations. Once the root of the situation can be uncovered, steps can be taken to remedy the causes.

It would be beneficial to restore the students to a full, or as full as possible, school schedule within the school systems of the eight-county area. In order to accomplish this task, Juvenile Accountability/Service Officers, Probation Officers, Office of Juvenile Services and Professional Partners will be working with area schools to set up a specific schedule for students to ensure that they are able to have a productive and positive educational experience.

Each county will aim to identify specific contact persons at schools located in their counties to better facilitate and increase efficiency of the work between the agencies involved with that specific youth.

Year #1—The Partnership Team and school staff members will work together to find a solution to the transportation problem with youth that are truant in the Norfolk Public School area or other areas in the eight-county area. A majority of the time this is due to the employment of parents who work for Tyson Foods or other factories. Contact will be made with those employers also to see if they are able to provide any assistance.

The Juvenile Accountability Office will continue to provide a Truancy Diversion Program for juveniles that have attendance issues. Professional Partners will work with school staff members and Juvenile Accountability in providing services for youth with attendance issues.

The Juvenile Accountability Office will explore the possibility of providing space for the Juvenile Accountability Office and Professional Partners Program to share an office at the Norfolk Junior High.

Year #2—Continue to provide a Truancy Diversion Program and assistance from Professional Partners to individual families dealing with truancy issues.

Year #3--Review progress made during Years 1 and 2 and continue to establish services that will assist juveniles who are truant to school.

Priority Six (Issue Based)

To provide community based services for area youth who are at high risk of becoming involved in the Criminal Justice System. To provide community based services and monitoring services for youth who are in the Criminal Justice system as an alternative to being placed in detention.

The Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Justice Partnership is in the process of establishing a community center which will be centrally located and available to all youth, not just ones in the Criminal Justice System. The center would provide day reporting services and after school programs by a collaboration of services between local area services providers.

The issue of a significant number of youth being incarcerated at the Madison County Juvenile Detention Center is one priority that is being addressed. In order to decrease the number of youth residents at the Madison County Juvenile Detention Center, several steps must be taken.

The Partnership Team will increasingly work with the court to expand the use of tracker and electronic monitoring systems, through the County Attorney's Juvenile Services Programs, Probation, and Office of Juvenile Services, which would allow placement of the juveniles back into their own homes and communities. Living in one's own home and community would in most cases be the more ideal situation as opposed to incarceration.

The Partnership Team would like to increase the use of tracker and electronic monitoring overall. There has been past success with intensive supervision of more high-risk youth. The increased number of visits from a Juvenile Accountability/Service Officer, more restrictive curfews, and

the usage of an electronic ankle bracelet can be successful in many cases. The juvenile is allowed to live at home where there is hopefully a support network, and they avoid the sometimes negative experience of being kept in an institutional detention setting.

Members of the Partnership Team will be meeting with educational and supervisory staff at the Juvenile Detention Center to identify the specific areas of need for certain youth that are released from the detention center back into their local communities. The goal is to make this transition successful and permanent.

Year #1 Research resources available such as Juvenile Accountability Services, Probation, and Professional Partners wrap-around services and identify services available to reduce the number of juveniles in detention and place them back into their family homes. Organizations in the area will continue to provide and enhance services so juveniles can be successful in returning home and staying out of the court system.

Year #2 Review services that were provided in year 1, meet with staff members of the detention center to determine the needs of juveniles after they are released from the detention center.

The Partnership Team members will work directly with schools in each school district to find ways to transition youth back into a regular classroom setting and recover credits to ensure that they will become successful, educated, responsible adults.

Year #3 Continue to provide services to youth in the eight-county area and review services to determine if they have been successful or if changes need to be made.